



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



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CITY COUNCIL PASSES LANDMARK AMENDMENT ESTABLISHING VETERAN PREFERENCE FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING ORDINANCE

CHICAGO – Today, the Chicago City Council approved a landmark municipal code amendment sponsored by Alderman Gilbert Villegas, paving the way for the establishment of veterans' preference in affordable housing units. This groundbreaking amendment mandates that various developers across Chicago grant preference to veterans for a minimum of 10% of the affordable units required under the City's Affordable Requirements Ordinance, whether provided on-site or off-site.

"Veterans have made immense sacrifices for our country, and I am honored to stand alongside City Council as we expand affordable housing options for them," said **Mayor Brandon Johnson**. "This ordinance marks a significant milestone in our efforts to provide housing for veterans in our great city."

Alderman Villegas, a former U.S. Marine and major advocate for veterans, introduced this legislation and played a pivotal role in its advancement. "This ordinance will significantly enhance the lives of Chicago's veterans by offering them greater access to affordable housing opportunities," said **Alderman Villegas**. "Our veterans represent the best of us—they are brave, resilient, and dedicated to serving the American people. Now, as a city, we have the opportunity to support our veteran community by allocating more affordable housing options for them."

Under the amendment, developers of residential projects subject to the Affordable Requirements Ordinance must allocate 10% of the total number of affordable units for veterans for a 30-day period following the opening of the residential project for resident applications. Additionally, the ordinance mandates minimum periods during which developers must actively market to and reserve affordable units for veterans, thereby enhancing outreach efforts.

"I am proud to have worked alongside Alderman Villegas and the City Council's Veteran Caucus, to achieve this landmark amendment," said **Kevin Barszcz, a U.S. Navy Veteran**



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and Director of the Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs. "Our Veteran community has scarified so much for this county and one of the most meaningful ways we can truly welcome them home, is to help provide one, and this preference is a path to doing so."

For more information and to read the full amendment, please visit [SO2023-0002888](#) (Amendment of Municipal Code Section 2-44-085 regarding veteran preference for residential housing purchasers or renters under the Affordability Requirements Ordinance).

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